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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
25 March 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Afro-Asian Conference Developments

Programing of the conference is well-advanced, according to the head of the Joint Preparatory Secretariat. The conference is to be convened at 9 a.m. on 18 April in public plenary session. After hearing President Sukarno's opening address, the conference will elect a president--in all probability Premier Ali Sastroamidjojo. The balance of the 18th and morning of the 19th will be devoted to open sessions during which formal speeches will be delivered by chief delegates. The conference is to meet in secret after these speeches, to consider procedural matters and the agenda. The conference will then divide into committees. 25X1

State Dept. review completed

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Whatever the Communists may do in the way of delegates, it appears that they will have a large number of unofficial representatives in Bandung. According to a list issued by the Indonesian Information Ministry, TASS will have twelve correspondents covering the conference, the New China News Agency will have three and the London Daily Worker two. [REDACTED] 25X1

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[REDACTED] The American embassy in Djakarta has also been informed that Indonesian army Chief of Staff, General Bambang Sugeng, has been appointed conference security officer and that he reportedly said that Communist China was sending 30 security officers to guard its delegates.

Meanwhile, British officials in Singapore believe that Liao Cheng-Chih, Peiping's leading expert on Overseas Chinese affairs, is the key Chinese Communist delegate to the "Asian Conference for Relieving International Tensions" in New Delhi. They speculate that his inclusion may mean that Peiping is planning to make a policy pronouncement regarding the Overseas Chinese which can be exploited later at Bandung. Substance is added to this view by the recent statement of Indonesian Foreign Minister Sunario that the on-again, off-again Sino-Indonesian negotiations regarding Overseas Chinese will be resumed in Djakarta sometime next week.

Information about other delegates continues to trickle in. A radio broadcast from Tokyo states that Foreign Office Adviser Masayuki Tani is likely to head the Japanese delegation since Foreign Minister Shigemitsu will be occupied with the current session of the Diet. Tani, a prewar foreign minister, is Shigemitsu's right-hand man and can be expected to follow a line designed to avoid antagonizing the Communists without subscribing to their point of view while at the same time seeking to enhance Japan's influence among all participants. It will be interesting to note, however, if the Indonesians object to Tani being the chief Japanese delegate because he does not hold cabinet rank as they did in the case of General Romulo. 25X1

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The Lebanese delegation will include Prime Minister Solh, Foreign Minister Alfred Naccache, and possibly Ambassador Charles Malik. In Malik the West will have an experienced and articulate champion.

Foreign Minister Salah, the chief Jordanian delegate, has publicly proclaimed that at Bandung he will devote himself primarily to obtaining a review of the Palestine problem. He has told Ambassador Mallory that his pro-Western sentiments would not be undermined by the Communists and that he hoped to persuade the Egyptians to adopt a positive attitude.

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